



Bear Blast

January 1 - 5, 2024



Our Mission - *United by our core values of Faith, Family, Knowledge and Service, St. Anthony Catholic School is committed to providing a learning environment that promotes academic excellence, spiritual growth, and moral development. Preparing students to be good stewards of God's gifts.*



Message from the Principal

Dear St. Anthony Families,

Happy New Year! It is 2024! I hope everyone enjoyed the happy and holy Christmas season! January brings in a new year and lots of other stuff too; Battle of the Books, MAP testing, 2nd nine weeks report cards, Basketball games, Spelling Bee, Catholic Schools Week, and the St. Anthony Honky-Tonk Hoedown Auction and Gala!

I want to say thank you for all my thoughtful, yummy, useful, fun, and inspirational gifts that I received for Christmas. Thank you for making me feel so loved! This school community is special, and I am thankful and blessed to be a part of it. My "Flame" is burning bright because of all of you!

In Catholic Schools, we are learners, servants, and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work and succeed. We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week January 28th – February 3rd. We kick-off the week with our Tailgate Party hosted by the St. Anthony Men's Club and Auction Committee and we end our special week with The St. Anthony Honky-Tonk Hoedown Auction Gala on February 3! During the week students will be participating in many other events and activities to celebrate students, families, parishioners, and community members. A calendar of events will be coming home in the Tuesday Folder soon!

Please read all the information regarding the auction as it appears in your emails, Facebook, Bear Blast, Tuesday Folder.... You don't want to miss out! Thank you to Marie Glinski and the Auction Committee for all their dedication and hard work for this event! This is going to be the best Honky-Tonk Hoedown ever!!!!

Welcome back and many blessings,

Mrs. Salemmo

Upcoming EVENTS

January 2 – School Resumes for Teachers - PD

January 3 – School Resumes for Students

January 9 – Report Cards Issued

January 9 - 27 – Winter MAP Testing

January 15 – NO SCHOOL – MLK Holiday

January 16 – Lower School Battle of the Books (virtual)

January 17 – STEAM Bus for 4th Grade; Middle School Battle of the Books (virtual)

January 23 – SCISA Spelling Bee, Manning

January 25 – St. Paul Feast Day

January 26 – Noon Dismissal; Chorus sings at Mass

Jan. 28 – Feb. 3 - Catholic Schools Week

February 3 – Honky-Tonk Hoedown Auction Gala

February 5 – 2:00 Dismissal

February 5 - 23 - MAP Testing



A special thanks to all those who made the teachers feel so special and loved! We truly enjoyed the luncheon with delicious food and wonderful decorations. Thank you to all the families for our wonderful staff gifts. We are truly blessed by the support from school families and friends.

School Lunch

Remember to go online to complete orders for January hot lunch.



House Competition

Our Toy Drive ended December 14. As a school and parish, we filled 3 large boxes. Thank you to all those who participated. The final data for each house is:

House	Participation	Extra	Points Awarded
St. Joan of Arc	63%	11	200
St. John Bosco	29%	5	92
St. Jude	47%	7	148
St. Paul	54%	22	184

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact, and our words carry power.

May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and, in the days, ahead.

Amen

— Vinita Hampton Wright



Our students performed acts of service and compassion to earn bags of hay, so that their House manger would be soft enough for Jesus. Every manger is full. The results were: St. Joan of Arc – 16 bags; St. John Bosco – 20 bags; St. Jude – 13 bags; and St. Paul – 21 bags.

PLEASE NOTE

Students need to wear tennis shoes on PE Days. Students who do not have the appropriate footwear will not be able to participate in PE activities.

Please be sure to label all sweaters, coats, hats, scarves, etc. with your child's name. We want to make sure items are returned to the correct owner. Please have your child check the Lost and Found if they are missing any items.

Rehearsal Schedule
 Week of January 1 - 5
 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday
 Scenes 1 - 6

Good Luck to our students preparing for the SCISA Spelling Bee on January 23rd at Weldon Auditorium in Manning.
[SCISA Page with links to rules and word lists.](#)

Good Luck to our students preparing for the SCISA Lower School Regional Competition (virtual competition) on January 16th.
[SCISA Page with links to rules and book lists](#)

Good Luck to our students preparing for the SCISA Middle School Regional Competition (virtual competition) on January 17th.
[SCISA Page with links to rules and book lists](#)

Hey!
WELCOME
 We're very
GLAD
 you're here!

We would like to welcome Hutton Mobley and Genevieve Jackson to our 3K Class. We are so happy to have you join our St. Anthony Catholic School Community.

January Virtue: Gratitude

Gratitude – seeing everything as a gift from God and being thankful

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Giving thanks in all circumstances does not always seem possible. There are many times in which we do not want to give thanks.

Gratitude is a fundamental tenet of the Catholic faith and one of the most important virtues for us to foster. It is deeply woven into the fabric of daily life. This sentiment is not confined to grand gestures or momentous occasions; instead, it is cultivated in the small, everyday acts of acknowledging and appreciating the blessings received from God. Even the difficulties in our life, which God allows for the greater good of our salvation.

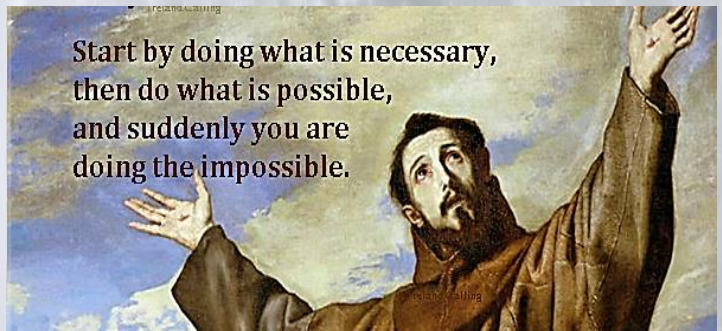
Gratitude is one of the greatest spiritual medicines of all time. It is one of the most powerful antidotes to self-pity, envy, resentment, and pride. Nothing frustrates the devil more than a human being who is grateful to God.

So what does gratitude do for you?

According to Chris Stefanick, we receive 5 benefits when we practice the virtue of gratitude:

- Gratitude unlocks your power to enjoy your life. Gratitude is the key that will unlock the smile on your face. God wants you to enjoy your life.
- Gratitude generates feelings that make you more successful. When you focus on what makes you grateful, it releases serotonin and dopamine — real performance enhancers. It also lights up the part of your brain associated with learning and problem-solving.
- Gratitude makes you a blessing magnet. If you say “thank you” to people all the time, they just want to give you more. This also applies to God.
- Gratitude gives you a victorious attitude and changes you from a victim to a victor.
- Gratitude preserves the relationships in your life.

Start by doing what is necessary,
 then do what is possible,
 and suddenly you are
 doing the impossible.



Saint Francis of Assisi was a Catholic friar who gave up a life of wealth to live a life of poverty. He established the Franciscan Order of friars and the women's Order of the Poor Ladies.

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He grew up leading a privileged life as the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His father wanted him to become a businessman. About the age of nineteen Francis went to battle against the nearby town of Perugia. Francis was captured and taken prisoner. He was held prisoner in a dungeon for a year before he was set free.

Over the next few years Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. Finally, when praying in a church, Francis heard God tell him to “repair my church, which is falling in ruins.” Francis gave all his money to the church. His father became very angry with him. Francis then left his father's home and took a vow of poverty.

As Francis lived his life of poverty and preached to people about the life of Jesus Christ, people began to follow him. He had one basic rule which was “To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps”. He and his followers traveled to Rome to get the approval for their religious Order from the pope.

Francis became ill and spent the last few years of his life mostly blind. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141. He was declared a saint of the Catholic Church only two years after his death.

Interesting Facts about Saint Francis of Assisi

- October 4th is observed as Saint Francis’ feast day.
- It is said that he received the stigmata two years before he died. This was the wounds of Christ from the cross including his hands, feet, and side.
- Francis set up the first known Nativity scene to celebrate Christmas in 1220.
- He believed that actions were the best example, telling his followers to “Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”

BASKETBALL

Schedule for the Week of January 1 - 5

4th – 6th Team

Please check your emails and text for confirmed practices. Thank you!

Middle School Team

Friday	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Practice
--------	------------------	----------

Save the Date

Honky-Tonk Hoedown Auction & Gala



February 3, 2024, 6:00 PM
Florence Country Club



A Prayer for Gratitude
 Gracious God in this busyness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop and thank you for all that is good in my life. My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels. I thank you too for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair or difficult. In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love. Amen



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK TAILGATING KICKOFF

JANUARY

28

3-6 PM

WHO

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL FAMILIES AND ALUMNI
 ST. ANTHONY'S PARISHIONERS
 ST. ANN'S PARISHIONERS

COST

\$8 STUDENTS
 \$10 ADULTS

WHERE

ST. ANTHONY FAMILY CENTER
 2536 HOFFMEYER RD. FLORENCE



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE KICKOFF OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND FOR THE AFC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME KICKOFF AT 3:00 PM.

FOOD & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCLUDED
 ADDITIONAL BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS WILL BE FOR SALE

